

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 91

Recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of the autism spectrum disorder, and supporting programs for greater research and improved treatment of autism and improved training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for them.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 29, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. DOYLE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of increasing awareness of the autism spectrum disorder, and supporting programs for greater research and improved treatment of autism and improved training and support for individuals with autism and those who care for them.

Whereas the Autism Society of America, Cure Autism Now, the National Alliance for Autism Research, Unlocking Autism, and numerous other organizations commemorate April 27 as Autism Awareness Day and April as Autism Awareness Month;

Whereas autism is a developmental disorder that is typically diagnosed during the first three years of life;

Whereas autism has robbed at least 400,000 Americans of their ability to communicate and interact with others;

Whereas autism affects at least 1 in every 500 children in America;

Whereas autism is 4 times more likely in boys than in girls, and can affect anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, or other factors;

Whereas the cost of specialized treatment in a developmental center for autistic persons is approximately \$80,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost of special education programs for school-aged children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year;

Whereas the cost nationally of caring for persons affected by autism is estimated at more than \$13 billion per year; and

Whereas, despite the fact that autism is one of the most common developmental disorders, many professionals in the medical and educational fields are still unaware of the best methods to diagnose and treat the disorder: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2 *concurring)*, That the Congress—

3            (1) supports the goals and ideas of Autism  
4        Awareness Day and Month;

5            (2) recognizes and commends the parents and  
6        relatives of autistic children for their sacrifice and

1 dedication in providing for the special needs of their  
2 autistic children and absorbing significant financial  
3 costs for specialized education and support services;

4 (3) supports the goal of increasing Federal  
5 funding for aggressive research to learn the root  
6 causes of autism, identify the best methods of early  
7 intervention and treatment, and promote under-  
8 standing of the special needs of autistic persons;

9 (4) urges the Department of Health and  
10 Human Services to continue to press for the swift  
11 and full implementation of the Children's Health Act  
12 of 2000, particularly the establishment of not less  
13 than three "Centers of Excellence" at the Centers  
14 for Disease Control and Prevention and not less  
15 than five "Centers of Excellence" at the National  
16 Institutes of Health, in order to monitor the preva-  
17 lence of autism at a national level, leading to a bet-  
18 ter understanding of autism and related disorders;

19 (5) stresses the need to begin early intervention  
20 services soon after a child has been diagnosed with  
21 autism, noting that early intervention strategies, in-  
22 cluding Applied Behavioral Analysis, are the primary  
23 therapeutic options for young autistic persons;

24 (6) supports the goal of federally funding 40  
25 percent of the costs of the Individuals with Disabil-

1       ities Education Act to States and local school dis-  
2       tricts, recognizing that the inadequacy of this fund-  
3       ing has adversely affected the ability of school dis-  
4       tricts to appropriately respond to the rising number  
5       of autism cases in our schools;

6           (7) urges Federal, State, and local governments  
7       to allocate sufficient resources to teacher training  
8       initiatives to alleviate the shortage of appropriately  
9       trained teachers that have the skills and support  
10      necessary to teach, assist, and respond to the special  
11      needs of autistic students in our school systems; and

12          (8) recognizes the importance of worker train-  
13      ing programs that are tailored to the needs of devel-  
14      opmentally disabled persons, including those with  
15      autism, and notes that autistic persons can be, and  
16      are, productive members of the workforce if they are  
17      given appropriate support, training, and early inter-  
18      vention services.

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